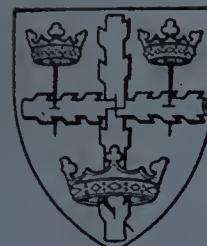


BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN D. KERSHAW

M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

DIVISIONAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

AREA MEDICAL OFFICER

CONSULTANT IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

MYLAND HOSPITAL, COLCHESTER

1968

BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER



BOROUGH AND PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1968

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

ALDERMAN E. P. DUFFIELD (to May)

COUNCILLOR C. A. HOWE (from May)

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR BRIGADIER D. F. PANTON, C.B.E.

Deputy-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. A. M. SMITH

Members:

COUNCILLOR W. M. GRAVER

COUNCILLOR C. W. PELL

COUNCILLOR MRS. B. E. RAWLINGS

COUNCILLOR J. HOWGEGO

COUNCILLOR H. WILLIAMS

COUNCILLOR C. G. E. SARGEANT

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1968

PART-TIME STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, etc.:

JOHN D. KERSHAW, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers:

R. E. BARRETT, M.B., B.S., D.T.M.&H., D.P.H. (LOND).

ANN B. CLARK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Analyst:

D. G. FORBES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

WHOLE-TIME STAFF

Senior Public Health Inspector:

†* L. H. ENGLAND

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

†* O. R. WARNER

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

†* C. J. JACOBI †* E. R. SWIFT

†* P. CUTTS †* K. F. CUTTING

† Public Health Inspector's Certificate.

* Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Authorised Meat Inspector:

A. BRUCE

Technical Assistant:

A. E. FOSTER, M.R.S.H.

Administrative Assistants:

E. V. BERHARDT L. G. NICHOLLS

Clerical Assistants:

B. V. PLOMPER P. BOLLU (to 2-9-68)

P. F. SALMON (from 21-10-68)

Disinfecto:

A. E. CUDMORE

Rodent Operators:

R. C. THWAITES

F. J. HEWITT

Telephone No.:
Colchester 79411

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
EAST LODGE COURT,
HIGH STREET,
COLCHESTER.

22nd October, 1969.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1968.

Vital Statistics

The birth rate again shows a rise and at 20·4 is well above the national figure of 16·9. The death rate is also a little above that for 1967 but remains lower than the national figure. There has been some re-classification of the death statistics, so that under a number of headings it is not possible to make direct comparisons with previous years. It would seem that on the whole there is little change in the pattern, but under those headings where comparison is possible there is an increase in deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchi and in coronary disease.

In this type of cancer certainly, and coronary disease probably, the smoking of cigarettes is a substantial casual factor. In 1968 we had 43 deaths from lung cancer (37 males and 6 females) which is an "all-time high" for the town. I analysed the figures for lung cancer in my report for 1965 and showed that in successive five-year periods from 1951 to 1965 the total number of lung cancer deaths had averaged successively 14·8, 20·8 and 29·8. The average over the three years 1966-67-68 is 35 deaths a year. There is no doubt that if people who smoke 20 or more cigarettes a day would either change to pipe-smoking or, better still, stop smoking, these figures would fall substantially, though the best way of keeping out of the lung cancer death list is never to start smoking. The attitude of most smokers is that "there are plenty of other things to die from" or that lung cancer is something that happens to other people.

However, in 1968 it killed nearly five times as many Colchester residents as did motor vehicle accidents and the odds on escaping it are narrowing. Out of every 21 who died during the year at any age and of any cause, one died of lung cancer. It strikes usually at the prime of life rather than in old age and most of the victims are men who would otherwise have a good many years of useful and vigorous life before them. I find it hard to understand how, in the face of the facts, so many people are prepared to run the risk.

My greatest disappointment, however, is that we have made no progress during the year in reducing the waste of infant life. The still birth rate is stationary but the infant mortality rate, both for the first month of life and for the first year of life, is a little higher than in 1967, though that for the country as a whole has fallen very slightly.

The problem is a difficult one. In a town like Colchester the climate and economic and social conditions should be favourable to the survival of young children. We have no shortage of able doctors

and though our hospital buildings are by no means ideal the quality of their work is high. Our infant mortality ought, for these reasons, to be lower than the national average and in fact it was consistently so until about five years ago. However, since then the national infant mortality rate has been declining while the Colchester rate has, if anything, tended to rise slightly. There is no special prevalence of any particular cause of infant deaths. In my report for 1967 I suggested that better obstetric skills were changing the pattern and that some babies who, a few years ago, would have been stillborn were now surviving the hazards of birth but were still too frail to cope with the hazards of infant life. The special care unit for these frail infants is now fully in action but has not yet made any impact on mortality.

The experience of other towns seems to be that these units take two or three years to get into their stride and I hope that the figures for 1969 or 1970 may show appreciable improvement. It is true that in a town of this size the number of "lost" infant lives is small and that if our rate were as low as the national figure the number of extra infants surviving would be only about five a year. But these infants are not just statistics; the death of every one of them is a heartbreak to a family. We are now putting into action a scheme by which every stillbirth or infant death will be investigated in detail by the hospital consultants, the general practitioners and the staff of the health department working in consultation with the post-graduate medical centre and I hope that this will bring about an increase in knowledge and understanding which will be the means of saving many lives in the future.

At the other end of life, Colchester is maintaining its record for survival as the peak rate of deaths shifts further from middle life into old age. Of the town's total of 909 deaths 539 occurred after the age of 70, and of these half were after the 80 year mark. However, for most people the years after 70 are years of steadily declining vigour and increasing disability, so that if we are going to make these last years tolerable there will be a continually increasing demand on our social services.

Infectious Diseases

With a comparatively light year for measles the total of cases of infectious disease notified fell from 1,523 to 530. Next after measles (235 cases) the highest number of notifications was 174 cases of infective hepatitis, the greatest we have ever recorded for this disease. While part of the reason for the increase is undoubtedly more effective diagnosis, I have no doubt that we have had in 1968 a moderate epidemic but most cases were mild. Notifications of dysentery and food poisoning remain very low and are certainly not a true index of the prevalence of these conditions. As I have commented in previous years, I am sure that intestinal infections are quite common, but most cases are so mild that the patients recover in a couple of days and do not seek medical advice, while even when medical advice is obtained it is notoriously difficult to identify the organism responsible.

Services for the Elderly

I am sorry to have to record that we have made little progress toward the replacement of Brambell House by more suitable premises. Our hopes of solving the problem by converting an existing building near the present one have been frustrated and the difficulties of finding suitable available sites near the town centre are obvious. The best prospect might well lie in fitting such a building into the town centre development scheme, but this could take some time. All that can be said at present is that the Council is well aware of the need and that no opportunity of going forward with a new building will be missed.

The demand for meals on wheels continues to expand. Not only are there more people who would benefit by having them but it is becoming clear that an increase in the frequency from two days a week to three, especially during the winter months, must not be long delayed. Provision has been made in the estimates for 1969-70 for a substantial extension, if the practical problems of supply and transport can be solved. We have in the past considered the possibility of having a central kitchen for the purpose but it has hitherto seemed that the advantages of this from the catering point of view would be nullified by difficulties of transport. However, it now seems that we might be able to introduce a "hot lock" system by which centrally cooked meals could be taken in bulk to strategic points in the town and delivered individually from those points. In consequence, the "planning brief" for the new Day Centre now includes a central kitchen and when this is finally available it should be possible to increase the effectiveness of the service with some economies in money and manpower.

Elderly people often tend to be a little conservative in their habits and to be cautious in their acceptance of new services. This has been conspicuous in the case of the Council's supervised flatlets. Initially the building of new flatlets seemed to be comfortably keeping pace with the demand but during 1968 the people living in the flatlets have been becoming well settled and their satisfaction has been obvious. The word has spread that the flatlets are highly desirable, with the result that by the end of the year all the existing flatlets were occupied and there were enough applicants on the waiting list to fill all the vacancies that were likely to arise for possibly a couple of years in the future. More flatlets should become ready for occupation early in 1970, but it looks as if we shall continue to have a waiting list for a long time—the flatlets are certainly prolonging the time for which residents can continue to lead an independent life, and more people are surviving to the age at which they will be eligible and suitable for flatlets.

One of my fears has been that the residents in the flatlets might tend to become isolated from the community and the neighbourhood. This is certainly a real risk and I am encouraged to find that the residents themselves are aware of it and are looking into possible ways of developing contacts.

During the year there has been some discussion of the general provision in and around Colchester of services and facilities for the elderly. Whatever we may offer in the way of housing, domestic help, meals on wheels and so forth the fact has to be faced that in the end the ageing process wins and the individual comes to the point at which hostel or hospital care is the only thing which will meet his needs. There is not yet enough of this kind of provision. Old people who are past the point at which they can be independent fall into three broad groups—those who, while frail and handicapped by failing sight and hearing and by some degree of arthritis, are not really ill and need general help and care, those who are suffering from some chronic illness, physical, mental or both, and need continuous medical and nursing care and a large “middle group” who may, in addition to their frailness, have a chronic illness of moderate severity which has occasional periods of exacerbation.

The first group are manifestly the ones best suited to hostel care, while the second group must obviously have first claim on the severely limited number of beds in the geriatric hospitals. The third group are the unlucky ones in that they need more special care than the hostels can provide but cannot claim hospital care except during their periods of exacerbation of illness. The “day hospital” kind of provision is of some help to them but it is by no means always possible for them to have adequate care in their homes outside day hospital hours and at week-ends and there is by no means enough day hospital provision to cover all those who could benefit by it. There is no escaping the necessity for more hospital accommodation on the right level for their needs and it is quite justifiable to press the hospital authorities to provide it and the exchequer to make the necessary funds available to the hospital service. Meanwhile the local authority domiciliary services have to carry this burden as best they can, conscious that whatever they do will not quite measure up to requirements.

Services outside the hospitals, provided by both local authority and voluntary effort are good in quality even if they are—as I mention in various parts of this report—less in quantity than one would wish. It is also possible that they might be used to better effect if certain difficulties could be overcome. In saying this, I have in mind the possibility that by providing aid earlier we might be able to reduce the strains on some of our ageing people and, in some degree, slow down the process of decline.

The services are usually called for at the suggestion of a doctor. This means that the person needing help must have felt that he needed medical advice. On the whole, people do not like to “bother their doctors unnecessarily” and tend to call in the doctor late rather than soon. In the elderly, an element of personal pride is involved; nobody likes to admit that he is feeling the effects of ageing, and to ask for medical or social help is to make such an admission. The suggestion has often been made that there might be a kind of register of elderly people and that all those over a certain age might have regular visits from a health visitor or social worker, but the idea

has not been welcomed, for obvious reasons. We have tried in this department, over the years, to build up a kind of informal register of "vulnerable" elderly people—those whom we had reason to believe had disabilities of various kinds, those who were living alone and so on and to let them know, as diplomatically as possible, that our health visitors were at their service as advisers if they felt that help might be needed. We have had a great deal of tactful help from a variety of official and non-official sources and we are taking steps to increase collaboration both in discovering the vulnerable and in enlisting the practical help of the voluntary organisations, which can offer certain "informal" services outside the local authority's powers.

On the whole, I think that we are slowly increasing the earlier contacts which we hope for. I wish we could do this more rapidly but I would rather progress gradually than give the impression that we are officially meddling in people's private affairs, an impression which might well frighten off the very people whom we would most like to help.

General

In all parts of the health department's work I have, as usual, enjoyed the loyal and steadfast support of a keen body of men and women. There have been some special difficulties during the year. Though the upheaval of moving from Trinity Street to East Lodge Court was over, such things as the starting of the centre for the physically handicapped, the change from routine to selective medical inspection in the remainder of our schools and the temporary transfer of the Brook Street Nursery to Greyfriars involved not only extra administrative work but quite a number of human problems; the ability of a department to take these and similar things in its stride is good evidence that the administrative and professional staffs understand each other and know how to work together.

You and my other employing authorities generously released me for a consultant assignment with the World Health Organization during the latter part of the year and I felt able to go with complete confidence that the department's work would not suffer. This, again, imposed extra strain on my colleagues; I thank them for taking it so readily and effectively and I hope that I may have done enough good in South-East Asia to justify their extra effort here.

Our good relationships with other individuals and bodies outside the health department continue; such misunderstandings as occur are few and minor and easily resolved. And it remains a great and continuing strength to know that we can so constantly rely on the support of the Council and, especially, that of the members of the Borough and Port Health Committee.

I remain, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient servant,

JOHN D. KERSHAW,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1968

A Report as directed by Circular 1/69 of the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Population (R.G. Estimate) with Military (at 30/6/68)	72,630
(Census 1961, 65,080)	
Total dwellings: Occupied 19,825, Vacant 406	20,231 (Census)
Area	12,037 acres
Rateable Value (1/4/68)	£2,967,954
Product of a penny rate	£12,200
Birth Rate (1,348 legitimate births, 117 illegitimate)	
	(Corrected) 20·4
	(Crude) 20·2
„ „ England and Wales	16·9
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 live births ..	79·9
England and Wales..	84·0
Stillbirths (27) Rate per thousand live and stillbirths	18·1
England and Wales	14·0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 related live births—	
Legitimate (33 deaths), 24·5. Illegitimate (6 deaths), 51·2. Total (39 deaths)	26·6
Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales ..	18·0
Neonatal Death Rate (26 deaths)	17·7
Neonatal Death Rate, England and Wales ..	12·3
Early Neo-Natal Death Rate (20 deaths)	13·6
Early Neo-Natal Death Rate, England and Wales ..	10·5
Perinatal Death Rate	31·5
Perinatal Death Rate, England and Wales ..	25·0
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (Corrected)	11·4
	(Crude) 12·5
„ „ England and Wales	11·9
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions	61·6
Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0·03
Other Tuberculosis Diseases Death Rate	Nil
Cancer Death Rate	2·4

DEATHS OF CIVILIAN RESIDENTS, 1968

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	1	2	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	1
Measles	1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1	—	1
Cancer, Stomach	11	6	17
,, Lung, Bronchus	37	6	43
,, Breast	—	13	13
,, Uterus	—	10	10
,, Other Sites and Lymphatic ..	41	45	86
Leukaemia	5	1	6
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms ..	1	—	1
Diabetes	7	7	14
Avitaminoses, etc.	—	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases ..	—	1	1
Anaemias	1	5	6
Other Diseases of Blood, etc. ..	1	—	1
Mental Disorders	1	1	2
Meningitis	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ..	7	4	11
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	2	2	4
Hypertensive Disease	8	4	12
Ischaemic Heart Disease	113	97	210
Other Forms of Heart Disease	17	23	40
Cerebrovascular Disease	50	66	116
Other Circulatory Disease	11	15	26
Influenza	6	18	24

Continued on page 10

Deaths of Civilian Residents, 1968—continued.

<i>Cause of Death</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pneumonia .. .. ..	..	38	50	88
Bronchitis and Emphysema	38	9		47
Asthma .. .. ..	..	2	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	10	5		15
Peptic Ulcer	1	3		4
Appendicitis	1	—		1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	5		6
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	—		2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	4	5		9
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1		3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—		4
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ..	2	2		4
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue ..	—	1		1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	—	2		2
Congenital Anomalies	4	4		8
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ..	3	4		7
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	6	3		9
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions ..	2	2		4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	4		9
All other Accidents	8	8		16
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	5	6		11
All other External Causes	—	3		3
	462	447		909
Deaths Registered in Borough .. .. ..	..	..		1,401
Residents' deaths Registered outside Borough .. ..	..	..		88
				1,489
Deduct non-residents transferred out .. .. ..	..	..		580
Number allocated to Colchester .. .. ..	..	..		909

1968. DEATHS OF COLCHESTER RESIDENTS OVER 70 YEARS OF AGE

	Aged 70 and under 80	Aged 80 and under 90	Aged 90 and over	Total
Male . . .	139	81	14	234
Female . . .	148	117	40	305
Total . . .	287	198	54	539

Fourteen persons were aged 90, fifteen aged 91, six aged 92, six aged 93, two aged 94, two aged 95, one aged 96, two aged 97, two aged 98, three aged 99 and one aged 100. The oldest was a female.

1968. DEATHS IN AGE AND SEX GROUP SUMMARY

	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over	Total
Male	15	8	2	4	10	5	17	29	84	130	158	462
Female	11	5	1	5	3	2	10	14	49	109	238	447
	26	13	3	9	13	7	27	43	133	239	396	909

LABORATORY, 1968

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water by the Public Health Laboratory Service (Ipswich) numbered 10 (1 was unsatisfactory).

In addition 2 samples of water from the Swimming Pool were bacteriologically examined.

NURSING HOMES

There is one Home registered in the Borough.
General and surgical beds available are 12.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1968

(Civilian and Military Cases)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases in Age Groups												Cases admitted to Hospital	Age not known
		Under 1 Year		1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64		
Measles . . .	235	13	28	36	37	38	72	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Malaria . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia . . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Dysentery . . .	8	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia . . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas . . .	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever . . .	42	—	—	1	5	3	25	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Infectious Hepatitis . . .	174	—	1	3	6	15	60	34	11	29	9	2	2	6	2
Whooping Cough . . .	61	11	8	8	9	10	12	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis . . .	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Oph. Neon. . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning . . .	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Totals . . .	530	26	38	48	57	67	173	47	11	39	9	4	3	13	8

Deaths from notified diseases: Nil.

Deaths from unnotified diseases: Pneumonia 6, Measles 1.

Total deaths from infectious diseases: 7.

* Measles: Pre-school children	152
Schoolchildren	78
Adults	2
Age not known	3
	235

* Cases (included above) relating to Servicemen and their families in Military Married Quarters or in civilian lodgings—58.

During the year 33 patients were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Unit at Myland Hospital as actual or suspected cases of infectious disease. The final diagnoses were as follows:

Gastro-enteritis	3	Mouth Infection	2
Chickenpox	1	Virus Meningitis	4
Measles	4	Infective Hepatitis	2
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	3	T.B. (Pulmonary)	9
Whooping Cough	2	Pyrexia	1
Streptococcal Infection	1	Glandular Fever	1

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	10	2	—	—	1	1	—	—

Tuberculosis Register

		1965	1966	1967	1968
Pulmonary Cases	352	359	279	279	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	28	28	11	11	

Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis.

Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

No action necessary.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47.

No action was required.

CREMATIONS, 1968

Died in Month	Total	Resi-dents	Non-Resi-dents	Form F Signed by			
				Dr. Kershaw	Dr. Alderton	Dr. Barrett	Dr. Clark
January ..	237	60	177	135	—	67	35
February ..	131	26	105	98	—	20	13
March ..	142	29	113	64	—	41	37
April ..	132	26	106	68	—	58	6
May ..	148	39	109	45	—	103	—
June ..	116	32	84	55	—	58	3
July ..	116	27	89	81	23	—	12
August ..	131	39	92	95	—	36	—
September ..	125	24	101	68	—	51	6
October ..	120	28	92	28	—	85	7
November ..	146	37	109	—	7	68	71
December ..	210	47	163	—	—	164	46
Totals	1,754	414	1,340	737	30	751	236

Essex 1,241, Suffolk 78, London 4, Other Areas 17—Total 1,340 non-residents.

Coroner's Cases:	January - 27	April- 14	July - 16	October - 15	
Total —	229	February- 21	May - 20	August - 18	November- 18
		March - 20	June - 17	September- 16	December- 27

Essex County Council Act, 1933.

Ten establishments are registered under the above Act for massage or special treatment.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Three sets of premises were registered during the year.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS, 1968

Number of accepted applications for re-housing supported by medical certificates	316
Number of such cases re-housed during year	212

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF, 1968

Medical Examinations not considered necessary	173
Primary Examinations	15
Examinations after absences	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Piped water is supplied by Colchester and District Water Board (whose area also includes Lexden and Winstree Rural District and West Mersea Urban District) from six sources. Monthly bacteriological samples were taken from five of the sources, the remaining one being sampled twice monthly. All reports indicated a pure and wholesome supply which in quantity exceeded the consumption so that no restrictions of any kind were necessary. During the year 187 samples were taken at source and 185 from reservoirs and towers. Two hundred and fifty-seven samples were taken at consumer's supply. Of this total of 629 only 11 were regarded as unsatisfactory and repeat samples proved to be satisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory samples none were from consumers' taps within the Borough of Colchester, neither from sources or reservoirs and towers, which supply the distribution network serving the Borough.

Chemical results varied between sources and the extremes of variation were:

Chloride	82	-305 mg./l.
Hardness	130	-330 mg./l.
Alkalinity	25	-295 mg./l.
Fluoride	0·1-	2·5 mg./l.
Metals (iron only)	0·0-	0·25 mg./l.

The water from one source was dosed with Calgon to control deposition of ferric-hydroxide and another with a liability to plumbo solvent action was treated by aeration. Water from all except one source was chlorinated to 0·3 mg./l.; the rest was super-chlorinated to 2·5 mg./l. approximately and de-chlorinated with sulphur dioxide.

During the year 2·7 miles of distribution mains were laid in the Borough and 531 houses connected to the system but there are still 50 dwellings (involving approximately 173 people) not connected to the mains.

During the year work was commenced to thoroughly clean out the internal incrustation from the older mains in the Borough using rotary boring equipment and swabbing. A total of 4,017 yards have been cleaned by boring and 13,552 yards by swabbing. This work progressed steadily and will continue until every main laid prior to 1925 has been cleaned.

Main Drainage and Sewage Treatment

Design work is being carried out for extending the main drainage system to areas which are likely to be developed in the near future. These sewers will generally be provided to meet the requirements of the development proposals subject to the necessary loan sanctions being given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Preliminary investigations are still in progress to ascertain the extent of overloading in the general sewerage system, but no major relief schemes will be carried out until the effects of the provision of the new trunk sewers, completed in 1965 are known, when the extensions to the Haven Sewage Treatment Works are commissioned.

The major extensions to the Haven Sewage Treatment Works, at an estimated cost of £2 million are in progress. It is anticipated that the construction work will be completed and ready for commissioning about mid 1970.

The Council has let a contract, subject to approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, for the construction of two large diameter trunk sewers to link up the existing drainage system to the redeveloped sewage works. The estimated cost of this work, together with ancillary work is £148,300. The construction work is programmed for commencement in June, 1969 and for completion in mid 1970.

General

During the year no new cesspools were constructed but one was done away with. No new wells were sunk and none closed.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No changes took place during the year.

Swimming Pools

There is one public open-air swimming bath in the Borough and frequent bacteriological samples are submitted during the open season. An indoor heated pool in the Colchester Garrison is available for the use of certain civilian organisations. Water purity is checked by the R.A.M.C. There are also five pools used for instructional purposes at schools.

Fuller details were contained in the 1959 report.

SANITARY INSPECTION

General Summary of Work carried out by Public Health Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, By-laws, etc.

Defects found	1,430
Defects remedied	2,015
Factories and Workshops inspected	233

Housing.

Sinks, Waste Pipes, etc., provided or renewed	9
Floors or walls or ceilings repaired	61
Doors or windows provided or repaired	66
Ovens or firegrates repaired or renewed	3
Stairs repaired	7
Rooms cleansed	149
Roofs repaired (including rain-pipes and gutters)	67
Chimneys repaired or renewed	11
Damp houses remedied	17
Yards paved or repaired	2
Other housing repairs	5

Drainage.

Repairs and improvements	296
Water Closets provided or repaired	46
Cesspools repaired	—

Other Sanitary Work.

Under Offices, Shops and R.P. Act	782
Under Factories Act	21
Under Food and Drugs Act	114
Houses disinfected	2
Clothing and other articles disinfected	732
Mains supply provided to existing houses	11
Well water sampled	2
Dustbins provided	9
Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices	4,523
Offensive accumulations removed	3
Pig keeping nuisances abated	—
Matters referred to other Departments	219
Other nuisances or matters attended to	40

FACTORIES ACTS

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	314	218	17	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	25	5	—	—
Total ..	360	233	17	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	9	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	5	3	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	3	12	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ..	—	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	18	19	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 183 and 184)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome places	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. ..	33	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and upholstery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electro-plate ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
File making ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fur pulling ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and steel cables and chains ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cart gear ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Locks, latches and keys ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas, etc. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Racquet and tennis balls ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pea picking ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather sorting ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Basket making ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chocolates and sweetmeats ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Textile weaving ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	36	—	—	—	—	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES AND KNACKER'S YARD

			Number.	Inspections.
Gut Scraper	..	..	1	23
Tallow Melter	..	..	1	3
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	..	..	5	—
Bone Boiler	..	..	1	3
	Total	..	8	29
Knacker	..	..	1	4

These occupations have been carried out satisfactorily and no complaints have been received.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

Normally two establishments operate within the Borough. One was re-licensed during the year. The second establishment, where improvements are due to be carried out, has not yet been re-licensed.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Dwelling Houses Infested—Council 1, Others 3	..	..	..	..	4
Dwelling Houses Disinfected—Council 1, Others 3	..	..	..	..	4
Rooms in these—Infested and Disinfested	..	..	..	..	14

In addition 16 dwelling houses were treated for the eradication of fleas.

Disinfestation of dwelling houses is carried out free of charge.

RATS AND MICE

		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	..	1291	4
Number infested by (i) rats	..	698	4
(ii) mice	..	117	—
Number of properties inspected for rats or mice for reasons other than notification	..	1,706	7
Number infested by (i) rats	..	121	1
(ii) mice	..	1	—
Total number of inspections by Rodent Operators		3,313	

The public sewers were treated twice during the year. In the first treatment 220 manholes were pre-baited resulting in poison bait being laid in 47. In the second treatment 124 manholes were pre-baited and 41 subsequently poison baited.

WASPS' NESTS

One hundred and six nests were destroyed during the year, the lowest number for several years.

PIGEONS

Complaints were received during the year concerning nuisance caused at a block of flats by pigeons which had taken up residence on the roofs, gutters and window sills. It took several weeks to trap them all, 21 in number. A wire cage was used for the trapping. Ringed birds were passed to the Secretary of a local Racing Pigeon Association, others were delivered to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for disposal.

HOUSING

Statistics for the Year 1968.

New Houses completed	332
New Flats completed	82
Additional units of accommodation provided by conversions	27
 I.— <i>Inspection.</i>	
Number of dwelling houses inspected	769
Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation	3
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	410
 II.—Number of defective houses rendered fit by Informal Action	382
 III.— <i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>	
A. Under Sects. 9 and 10, Housing Act, 1957—	
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	—
Number rendered fit—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default	—
B. Under Public Health Acts—	
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	12
Number complied with—	
(a) By owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
(1) Number of Closing Orders made including undertakings not to re-let given by owners	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5
D. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957	—
Houses on which Closing Orders were in force and subsequently made fit by owners	2
Houses on which Closing Orders were in force and subsequently demolished by the owners	3

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

RENT ACT, 1957

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of applications for certificates	Nil
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
Number of decisions to issue certificates	Nil
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	Nil
Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
Number of Certificates issued	Nil

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

Application by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	Nil
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	Nil
Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	Nil

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Inspections and re-inspections	276
Informal notices served	10
Means of escape in case of fire provided	1
Miscellaneous repairs or improvements	11

NOISE

Complaints concerning noise continue to increase, no less than 29 being received during the year. What is "music" to some is "noise" to others and it is sometimes not only impossible to remove the offending noise but difficult to reduce it to more acceptable levels. Complaints covered noise from music, domestic wireless, a juke box, children, neighbours, barking dogs, commercial refrigerators, factories, ice cream chimes and a Church bell calling to early morning service.

Every complaint is investigated and much time is absorbed making observations at all sorts of hours in an endeavour to assess the extent of the nuisance before interviewing those responsible for causing the noise. In no case was it found necessary to serve a Statutory Notice during the year.

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960
THE FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY
VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1966**

The number of inspections of food premises, delivery vehicles and stalls and the improvements recorded are shown in the following table:

	<i>Premises</i>					<i>Inspections</i>
Slaughterhouses	810
Bakehouses	82
Dairies and Milk Shops	134
Provision Shops	354
Fish Shops—Wet	36
Fish Shops—Fried	27
Butcher's Shops	161
Hotels and Restaurants	274
Canteens and Hospital Kitchens	122
Delivery Vehicles and Stalls	75

Repairs or improvements carried out :

Constant hot water supply provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Handbasins or sinks provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Walls—Repaired, decorated or cleansed ..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Ceilings—Repaired, decorated or cleansed ..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Floors—New, repaired, deoarated or cleansed ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Roofs repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Water closets—New, repaired or cleansed ..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Water closets—" Wash your hands " notices ..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Refuse receptacles provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Nailbrushes ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
First-Aid equipment provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	20

COOKED MEATS

Forty-seven samples of sliced cooked meats from twenty-two retail establishments were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination. In no case was any evidence found of organisms likely to produce food poisoning.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of slaughterhouses 3

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	6,975	608	170	4,176	6,870	—
Number inspected ..	6,975	608	170	4,176	6,870	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned ..	1	1	—	1	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1,780	116	—	290	631	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	25.53	19.24	—	6.97	9.23	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	146	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	2.14	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Parts of Carcasses or Organs Condemned

	Beasts including Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Parts of Carcasses	lb. 321	lb. —	lb. 246	lb. 1,814	lb. 2,411
Organs	24,767	—	712	2,257	27,736

In addition to the above, 201 lb. of Imported Beef, 8 lb. Imported Mutton, 10 lb. Imported Pork Offal and 12 lb. Imported Sheep Offal were condemned.

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was:

14 tons 6 cwt. 0 qrs. 13 lb.

Unsound meat was collected by an approved firm or buried on the Council's refuse tip.

POULTRY INSPECTION

Number of poultry processing premises within the district	1
Number of visits to these premises	62
Total number of birds processed during the year	16,701
Types of birds processed, e.g. turkeys, ducks, hens, broilers, capons, etc.	Broilers and capons
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human con- sumption	2.03
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human con- sumption	1,677 lb.

Killing takes place on one or two days a week and after slaughter the birds are de-feathered and chilled. An Inspector visits the premises regularly and examines the birds before they are despatched to market.

Other Food Inspection

Type of Food	Weight in lb.
Butter	116
Margarine	24
Lard	24
Cheese	52
Bacon	66
Ham	27
Sausages	43
Cooked Meats	9
Honey	5
Chestnuts	22
Rabbits	63
Chicken	133
Fish	207
	791

The total weight of meat and other foods listed above unfit for human food and condemned was:

14 tons 13 cwts. 0 qrs. 20 lb.

In addition the following foods were condemned:

Tinned Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,321 Tins
Other Tinned Goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,024 Tins
Packeted Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,776 Pkts.
Bottled Goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	235 Bots.
Pies	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Chickens	..	..	..	..	..	..	309
Shrimps	..	..	..	..	..	..	19 Gals.
Scampi	..	..	..	..	..	..	13 Gals.

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959

For most of the year two dairies were operating in the Borough, but towards the end of the year one ceased to pasteurise and bottle milk but continued to operate as a distributor for milk bottled elsewhere. Equipment for pasteurising and bottling has since been dismantled.

There are 82 distributors on the register and during the year 134 inspections of premises were made.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1963 — LICENCES

To Pasteurise Milk	..	..	..	..	1
„ sell Pasteurised Milk	..	..	..	..	69
„ „ Sterilised Milk	..	..	..	..	43
„ „ Ultra-Heat-Treated Milk	..	..	..	..	28

One hundred and forty-nine samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich for examination. One of the pasteurised samples failed the phosphatase test and five failed the methylene blue test.

No untreated milk is sold in the Borough.

LIQUID EGG

A local pasteurising establishment which previously produced liquid egg has ceased to operate. There are now no such establishments in the Borough.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples	No. of samples	Adulteration or other Irregularity	Nature of Deficiency
Milk	61	4	See observations.
Skimmed Milk	2		
Evaporated Milk, canned	1		
Dairy Cream	1		
Butter	3		
Margarine	3		
Cheese	3		
Lard	2		
Dripping	1		
Corn Oil	2		
Sunflower Oil	1		
Mixed Peel	4		
Dried Fruit	2		
Mineemeat	2		
Marzipan	1		
Ground Almonds	1		
Almond Extract	1		
Food Colour	1		
Bread	2	2	See observations.
Buttered Rolls	1		
Chieken Sandwich	1		
Jelly	1		
Jam	2		
Marmalade	1	1	See observations.
Lemon Curd	2		
Custard	1		
Honey	1		
Apples	1		
Apple Juiece	1		
Grapefruit Juiece, canned	1		
Orange Drink	2	1	See observations.
Soup, canned	3		
Salad Cream	2	1	See observations.
Vinegar	3		
Ground Nutmeg	2	1	See observations.
Pickle	1	1	See observations.
Prawn Balliehong	1		
Tomato Puree	2	2	See observations.
Tomato Juiece, canned	1		
Ice Cream	10		
Beef	2		
Chunky Steak, canned	1		
Ox Tongue	1	1	See observations.
Pork Loin, canned	2	2	See observations.
Pork Roll	1		
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	1	See observations.
Chopped Ham and Pork, canned	1		
Curry Powder	2		
Cheese Spread	3		
Chicken and Bacon Spread	1		
Potted Salmon with Butter	1		
Creamed Fish, canned	1		
Anchovy Essence	1		
Milk Shake Syrup	1		
Milk Chocolate Teacakes	1		

OBSERVATIONS

Sample 1: Orange Drink. Fermentation had occurred.

Sample 36: Marmalade. Description on label taken up with manufacturer.

Sample 42: Bread. Calories in excess of that stated, due to drying-out. Taken up with manufacturers and product subsequently withdrawn from the market.

Sample 123: Bread. Found to contain mineral grease and small particles of iron. Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to retailer.

Samples 43, and 69: Tomato Puree. Slight deficiency in tomato solids when compared with amount stated on label. Labelling subsequently amended.

Sample 61: Ground Nutmegs. Slight deficiency in volatile oil. Follow-up sample satisfactory.

Sample 77: Salad Cream. Contained portion of chewing gum. Taken up with manufacturer.

Sample 97: Ox Tongue. Sliced ox tongue contaminated by patches of black deposit. Blade of slicing machine had been sharpened and not thoroughly cleansed before re-use.

Sample 103: Bottle of Milk. Slight patches of mould growth on interior of bottle. Taken up with dairy concerned.

Sample 106: Sterilised Milk. 1% added water. Follow-up samples satisfactory. Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to dairy concerned.

Sample 109: Pasteurised Milk. Milk had turpentine-like odour and flavour. Possible accidental contamination from plastic bottle cap used by householder.

Sample 125: Bottle of Milk and Water. Contained garden soil. No legal action taken. Evidence inconclusive.

Sample 122: Pork Luncheon Meat. Found to contain a small piece of metal. Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to manufacturer.

Samples 132 and 133: Canned Pork Loin. Deterioration. Remainder of supply withdrawn from sale.

Sample 144: Pickle. Description of ingredients on label taken up with manufacturers.

**ACTION TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD
COMPLAINTS NOT LISTED IN
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT TABLE:**

Nature of contravention	Action taken
Metal nut in bread	Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to manufacturers.
Mouldy steak and kidney pudding	Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to suppliers.
Cement-like material in milk bottle	Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to dairy concerned.
Mouldy beef pie	Prosecution—fined £10.
Maggots in cheese	Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to retailer.
Foreign material in bread	Letter of caution sent by Town Clerk to manufacturer.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations

Visits to premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold	226
Samples taken	58
Results of samples—Grade I	41
Grade II	7
Grade III	5
Grade IV	5

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is a table showing the contraventions noted and the number of registered premises in which they were found.

<i>Contraventions</i>	<i>Premises</i>
Absence of wash-hand basins	1
Wash-hand basins insufficient in number	3
Defective wash-hand basins	3
Absence of hot water over existing wash-hand basins ..	18
Absence of soap	4
Absence of towels	2
Washing accommodation not labelled	5
Washing facilities not satisfactorily lighted	6

Continued on page 31

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963—continued.

<i>Contraventions</i>	<i>Premises</i>
Washing accommodation needing cleansing	7
Inadequate water closets	2
Water closets defective or needing cleansing	14
Water closets not satisfactorily ventilated	7
Water closets not satisfactorily lighted	21
Water closets not labelled	12
Means of disposal of sanitary dressings not provided	3
Absence of and incomplete first-aid kits	77
Absence of thermometers	68
Absence of abstract of Act	92
Ventilation unsatisfactory	7
Absence of intervening ventilated space	16
Lighting unsatisfactory	15
Heating unsatisfactory	8
Overcrowding	1
Absence of clothing accommodation	4
Absence of facilities for hanging clothes	3
Guards to food slicers unsatisfactory	15
Absence of guards to machinery (other than food slicers)	12
Absence of seating facilities	2
Absence of footrests	1
Ceilings needing to be repaired or cleansed	7
Walls needing to be repaired or cleansed	4
Floors defective	15
Floor coverings defective	8
Floors needing cleansing	10
Openings in floors unprotected	11
Obstructions on floors, passages and stairs	10
Staircases defective	2
Absence of guards to staircases	18
Absence of handrails	21
Insecure handrails	2
Ladders unsatisfactory	1
Defective roofs	1
Defective door and door furniture	1
Defective steps	2
Unsatisfactory and insecure timber food chute	1
Miscellaneous minor defects	3

ACCIDENTS

Nineteen accidents were notified to the Department during the year.

The following extracts serve to illustrate the varied nature of the accidents reported:

- (a) "was standing squarely in front of machine facing cutting edge of saw and cutting a piece of frozen lamb by holding either end with each hand and pushing the piece away from him and centrally through the saw band, and in so doing, failed to keep the index finger of his right hand clear of the saw."
- (b) "finger was inserted in the coffee grinder whilst the grinder was still in motion."
- (c) "while operating the tail lift switch on his vehicle with his left hand he was holding roll pallet truck with his right hand. To prevent the pallet from rolling off the tailboard he stopped the switch and then re-started it in the "up" position instead of the "down" position. His arm was caught between the tail lift and the lower part of the door of the vehicle."
- (d) "was putting shoes away in the fixtures and slipped off the steps."

It is not always the untrained or inexperienced who, by failing to use safety devices incorporated in machinery, are involved in accidents. In one case a butcher of 45 years experience in the trade, well qualified in the use of his food slicing machine, failed properly to secure a piece of bacon by means of the clamp provided and in trying to steady the bacon with his hand, suffered severe cutting which necessitated twenty-two stitches.

All notified accidents were investigated and advice given where appropriate.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following Tables contain the prescribed particulars for 1968 which were forwarded to the Minister of Labour under Section 60 of the Act.

Table A—REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the yr.
Offices	34	259	47
Retail shops	43	392	91
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	1	31	8
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	44	12
Fuel storage depots	—	2	—
Totals	80	728	158

Table B**NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES**

Number of visits 1,077

Table C**ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE**

Class of Work Place	Number of persons employed
Offices	2,339
Retail shops	2,813
Wholesale departments, warehouses	434
Catering establishments open to the public	421
Canteens	25
Fuel storage depots	6
Total	6,038
Total Males	2,652
Total Females ..	3,386

Table D—EXEMPTIONS

Number of Exemptions granted or reported during the year Nil

Table E—PROSECUTIONS

Number of Prosecutions during the year Nil

DELEGATED HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER, 1968

STAFF

1. Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. J. D. KERSHAW (Part-Time)

2. Medical Officers:

Dr. R. E. BARRETT (Part-Time)

Dr. A. B. CLARK (Part-Time)

Dr. M. J. BOWN (Whole-Time)

3. Area Dental Officer

Mr. E. T. CLARK (Whole-Time)

4. Dental Officers

Mr. S. G. WATSON (Part-Time)

Mr. F. H. BEAUCHAMP (Whole-Time)

5. Senior Administrative Officer:

Mr. H. T. PERCIVAL (Part-Time)

6. Superintendent Health Visitor:

Miss H. M. HALL (Part-Time)

7. Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent of Home Nurses:

Miss I. E. NICE (Part-Time)

8. Assistant Superintendent of Home Nurses:

Mr. S. COLLINS (Part-Time)

9. Senior Mental Welfare Officer:
 Mr. I. T. HAZELL (Whole-Time)

Mental Welfare Officer:
 Mr. G. T. ARMSON (Whole-Time)

10. Visitor for the Blind:
 Mr. J. D. STOPFORD (Whole-Time)

11. Visitor for the Physically Handicapped
 Mr. W. G. HUNTER (Whole-Time)

12. Matrons—Day Nurseries:
 Miss E. M. CHAPMAN (Sheepen Rd. Day Nursery)
 Mrs. G. R. HARMAN (Brook St. Day Nursery)

13. Domestic Help Organisers:
 Miss K. P. O'CALLAGHAN (Whole-Time)
 Mrs. P. D. FARMER (Part-Time)

14. Chiropodists:
 Mr. R. M. HALLAWELL (Whole-Time)
 Mr. J. A. WILLENS (Whole-Time)
 Mrs. A. H. STONEBRIDGE (Part-Time)

15. Health Visiting and Clinic Nursing Staff:
 10 Health Visitors
 6 Clinic Nurses } (Part-Time)

16. Midwifery and Home Nursing Staff:
 1 District Midwife
 8 Female Home Nurses
 5 District Nurse Midwives
 3 Male Home Nurses
 2 Female Home Nurses
 1 Male Home Nurse
 1 District Nurse Midwife } (Whole-Time)
 } (Part-Time)

Nurseries and Child Minders

The demand for nursery places continues at much the same level. The Authority's two nurseries, Brook Street and Sheepen Road, have waiting lists and the level of attendances is much as in previous years. Brook Street had caused us some concern since its heating system was overloaded and at constant risk of breakdown and both kitchen space and indoor space for the children were inadequate. The planned alterations and improvements were carried out at the end of the year, with considerable advantage to both staff and children. Sheepen Road continues to make the best of its "temporary" accommodation which is now more than 25 years old; since it is likely to disappear when the new road development scheme is implemented, a new building will have to be provided and it is obviously uneconomic to spend much on improving the present premises.

The new Health Services Act, which came into operation at the end of the year, extends and tightens up our powers of supervision of private nurseries and playgroups and child minders. Previously registration was required only if a minder was taking in more than two children from different families but under the new legislation a minder who takes in only one child must register. This is imposing substantial extra work on our staff, but I consider the principle reasonable, especially since the woman who takes in only a couple of children, in her own home, may not have ideal accommodation and will probably not have had much training in child care.

Playgroups are becoming more popular. The good ones, as I commented last year, are a very useful supplement to local authority provision if the premises are adequate, with both indoor and outdoor play space, and the people in charge include some with training or experience in teaching, nursing or nursery work. The Ministry of Health issued some useful instructions of guidance during the year and we are making use of these to ensure satisfactory standards of care. Some applicants for registration showed a little surprise when they realised what was required, but I am glad to say that in general the need for standards was appreciated and that the organisers of the registered playgroups are taking their work seriously and accepting our guidance.

Domestic Help and Night Attendance

There has been a slight increase over last year in the number of new domestic help cases arising in the year (306 as against 287) and in the number of cases on our books at the end of the year (566 as against 553). On the other hand, the number of hours of help provided fell from 86,611 to 82,879. I believe that part of this last is accounted for by the fact that the weather during the winter months was not too severe and that fewer elderly people than usual needed extra help because of illness, but I fear that, as has been the case for a year or two, we are not able to provide as much help for some beneficiaries as we would ideally like to. Recruitment is still presenting some difficulties and it is probably mainly to this that we owe the fact that our expenditure on this service was not appreciably above our estimate.

The provision of night attendance was also less than in 1967. This we regard as an emergency service and we make a point of meeting all demands. The reduction is therefore to be ascribed to some decrease in sickness emergencies.

Home Midwifery and Maternity Nursing

The number of domiciliary cases was greater than for some time. Most of the increase has been due to development of the "early discharge" system in the maternity hospital. For several years there has been a growing tendency, because of pressure on hospital beds, to admit women who are expected to have a normal delivery to the hospital for delivery and to discharge them home after about 48 hours, when the district midwife has taken over as "maternity nurse". Though reducing the strain on the hospital bed situation, this system has its shortcomings. It does not reduce the number of hospital deliveries, so that the hospital midwives tend to have more work rather than less, and it means that the mother does not have the quite considerable benefit of having the same midwife for both labour and after-care. We have for some time been trying to find a method of arranging for the domiciliary midwives to go into the hospital to deliver women and so to have continuous charge of them, but the state of the law as it was made this impossible. However, the law has now been amended and we hope before the end of 1969 to introduce a new system by which "normal" patients will enter hospital only for delivery, with the same domiciliary midwife looking after them before, during and after the baby's birth.

Welfare of the Physically Handicapped

The new Centre for the Physically Handicapped started work in March 1968. It opened with 12 people on the register and by the end of the year there were 35 attending. We have quite deliberately started on a small scale, because we are concerned not only with providing some interesting and useful occupations but with developing a congenial and stimulating environment and this can only be done if we build up a harmonious community atmosphere. To achieve this it is necessary to proceed slowly so that staff and patients can get to know each other well.

The range of disabilities is wide and the ages of those attending range from the late 'teens to the middle sixties. A variety of crafts has been introduced and in some of them we have been able to team up the lightly and the severely handicapped so that even those who are able to do very little feel that they are genuinely sharing in the work that is done. It is important that the patients should not get the idea that they are just killing time, and that the things they produce should be enough to be accepted by the public on their genuine merits and not be bought merely as a charitable gesture. With this in mind, the Supervisor has made contact with a number of commercial firms and a substantial part of the Centre's output has been produced by arrangement with these firms and is well up to "open market" standards.

Some of the patients had in the past attended other centres or

special schools. Others had been largely home-bound and had been short of human contacts and interests. Others again had led normal lives until middle age, when sudden illness had left them partially disabled. The value of getting them to mix with others is obvious, but introducing them to what is virtually a new life has obvious difficulties and makes great demands on the time, patience and understanding of the staff, who have well measured up to the challenge. I have greatly appreciated their willingness to go a bit further than the line of duty, especially in encouraging social activities.

There is always one risk in a centre of this kind—that it may tend to become something of a closed community. We are trying to avoid this by developing outside links and already a good relationship has been formed with the St. Raphael Club for the Handicapped. Our next step must be to get similar links outside the ranks of the handicapped and from the way in which things are developing I hope that the centre will soon develop a circle of "friends" who will not only join in its internal social activities but will be able to introduce the patients to various external activities.

In this connection I feel that it is timely to ask whether the town in general is taking sufficient notice of its handicapped citizens and their needs. How easy is it for a person in a wheel-chair to make use of the public library—or, for that matter, of the public lavatories? How does he or she get from the multi-storey car park to High Street, eat in some local restaurants or shop in some local shops? While wheel-chair users probably have most difficulty and are certainly the most obvious of the handicapped, there are considerably more people whose arthritis, bronchitis or heart disability makes it nearly as difficult and sometimes even more distressing to benefit by the town's amenities.

Some of the things which would make life easier for the handicapped could be provided quickly and cheaply—like ramps instead of kerbs at street crossing points and the better positioning of some "street furniture". Others, like the provision of lifts big enough to take a wheel-chair and the widening of passages and doors in municipal and private buildings used by the public can be expensive and even structurally impossible in existing buildings, but they will add but little to the cost of a new building if they are planned in from the start.

The next ten years are going to see a great deal of reconstruction in the town centre. In addition, therefore, to doing what we can to improve what exists, it is important to bear in mind the needs of the handicapped in making the new Colchester and to put an obligation on the private developers to take them into account. I know that the plans of the new swimming pool are being drawn up with this in view and I hope the Mercury Theatre will make equally adequate provision. Can we also think forward to the use of ramps instead of stairs for entrance to main road bridges or underpasses and for passage from one level to another in "shopping precincts"? It would be a pity if lack of foresight robbed the handicapped of so many of the privileges of ordinary people that they became, in effect, second-class citizens.

BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER

DELEGATED HEALTH SERVICES — 1968

STATISTICS RELATING TO VARIOUS HEALTH SERVICES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Births and Baby Deaths:

Number of live births notified	1,488
Number of still births notified	37
Number of baby deaths notified (under 1 year) ..	39

Home Nursing and Midwifery:

Number of midwifery and maternity cases attended	519
Visits to these cases	10,072
Visits to other nursing cases	36,751

Child Welfare Clinics:

Number of sessions held	613
Number of attendances made by children	20,500

Diphtheria Immunisation only:

Number of children who completed course of immunisation	Nil
Number of children given a boosting dose	23

Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus (Triple Immunisation):

Number of children who completed primary course	1,073
Number of children who received a reinforcing dose	1,139

Diphtheria/Tetanus Immunisation:

Number of children who completed primary course	95
Number of children who received a reinforcing dose	930

Tetanus Immunisation only:

Number of children who completed primary course	236
Number of children who received a reinforcing dose	26

Vaccination against Smallpox:

Number of persons successfully vaccinated	846
Number of persons re-vaccinated	123

Measles Vaccination:

Number of children vaccinated	1,357
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Vaccination against Poliomyelitis:

Number of persons receiving primary course	..	1,370
Number of persons receiving reinforcing dose	..	2,043

Home Visits (Health Visitors)

Total visits	15,666
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Gas and Air Analgesia

Analgesics administered by County Council Midwives	..	116
Number of sets of apparatus in use	..	..

Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics:

Number of sessions	..	..	..	..	100
Cases first attending	..	..	..	..	316
Attendances by patients	1,076

Cervical Cytology:

Number of women tested	515
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**WELFARE OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
REGISTER**

Category of Case:	Cases	
	31-12-67	31-12-68
Amputees	19	17
Arthritis	93	102
Congenital malformations	4	6
Heart and circulatory system	36	33
Digestive and genito-urinary system	2	4
Respiratory system	5	3
Skin diseases	1	—
Injuries of body and head	2	—
Injuries of limbs and spine	19	21
Ankylosing spondylitis	1	1
Epileptics	5	5
Hemiplegia and Paraplegia	22	24
Cerebral Palsy	9	11
Disseminated Sclerosis	25	25
Muscular dystrophy	5	4
Parkinson's disease	10	10
Poliomyelitis	11	11
Nervous and mental disorders	4	2
Diseases and injuries not specified above	9	8
TOTAL	282	287

WELFARE OF THE BLIND—REGISTER

Category of Case:					Cases	
					31-12-67	31-12-68
Blind					157	157
Partially Sighted					70	62
Defective Vision					13	17
TOTALS					240	236

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Cases being helped at 31st December, 1967	..	..	553
New Cases helped in 1968	..	..	306
Cases being helped at 31st December, 1968	..	..	566
Hours of help provided			82,879

NIGHT ATTENDANCE SERVICE

Cases being attended at 31st December, 1967	..	..	1
New Cases attended 1968	..	..	38
Cases being helped at 31st December, 1968	..	..	Nil
Hours of attendance provided			1,839

Free Milk for T.B. Patients:

New Cases .. .. .. ..	..	..	3
Total cases receiving milk at end of year			29

Chiropody Service:

Treatments given at home .. .. .. ..	..	..	3,378
Treatments given at clinics			4,191

DAY NURSERY SERVICE

Sheepen Road Day Nursery:

Number of children on books at end of year ..	..	57
Total attendances		10,974

Brook Street Day Nursery:

Number of children on books at end of year ..	..	52
Total attendances		9,529

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease during the year which could be associated with particular schools. The number of notifications of infective hepatitis was higher than usual and included 99 cases in children of school age. Thirty-five of these occurred in children of army families but enquiries indicated that this was not due to either spread of the disease in family quarters or special prevalence in schools attended by children of army personnel. (In fact, any apparent unevenness in the distribution of notified cases of this disease appears to be accountable for by the fact that some general practitioners notify it more readily than others.)

Hygiene Conditions in the Schools in the Borough

As a result of surveys, recommendations were made to the Borough Education Officer in respect of nine schools. Most of these referred to minor routine matters which were speedily and simply dealt with. Mention must be made, however, of two schools where major work is required:

Kendall Primary School. The playground is in need of resurfacing. It is agreed that the work needs to be done, but in view of the cost (£350) it has been decided to defer complete re-surfacing and for the time being to repair those parts of the surface which need urgent attention.

St. Anne's Nursery and Infants' School. The facilities provided for the kitchen staff are below standard. Improvements will be considered when there is some relaxation of restrictions on expenditure.

Hygiene conditions in the Borough schools generally are either fair or good. *Any* defects, even comparatively minor ones, carry potential risks to health. However, fortunately or unfortunately—according to one's point of view—none of the schools has major defects which are so dangerous that one could claim over-riding priority for substantial repair or reconstruction in a time of financial stringency.

Nursery Schools and Classes

There was no change during the year.

Cleanliness Inspections

The number of cases of verminous infestation found at inspections—105—is the highest for several years, though not excessive in comparison with other places. I suspect that the comparative rarity of head lice in Colchester recently has produced a certain amount of complacency in some parents and teachers; perhaps the increase may serve as a reminder that even the best-cared for child in the most modern school can be unlucky enough to pick up an occasional louse from the small minority of less well-kept children. The increase involved a considerable amount of extra work in checking and re-checking, which is reflected in the increased number of inspections recorded. It is interesting that the treatments we have been using recently with good results (Suleo and Esoderm) have been less effective this year; we have therefore changed to Lorexane No. 3, which has proved satisfactory.

New or Original Work

There is nothing to report under this heading this year.

Special Classes or Special Clinics

The audiology clinic has had a useful year, with 112 children referred (Borough 42, Division 70) as against 62 in 1967 and 215 attendances as against 144. It is not, however, fully meeting the need and we have been exploring possible ways of expanding the work. The basic difficulty is that there is a shortage of audiologists and the capacity of a clinic is restricted by the number of hours of audiologist's time which are available. One solution could be to arrange for a senior member of our own staff to specialise in audiology and to work jointly in our own clinic and in the appropriate department of the Essex County Hospital, with the hospital's consultants sharing in the clinic's work. I hope that we shall begin experimentally on these lines some time in 1969.

The increase in the work emphasises the need for the special day unit for hearing-handicapped children which I have mentioned before and which is included in the development plan.

I have nothing in particular to add to my comments of last year on the provision for educationally subnormal children. Kingswode Hoe school continues to function satisfactorily and the assessment unit has shown itself most valuable for the careful and detailed assessment of "borderline" children. It is nevertheless good to know that the making of further provision for E.S.N. children will not be long delayed.

Dental Inspection and Treatment

Mr. E. T. Clark, Area Dental Officer, reports as follows:

"After the first complete year in the Central Clinic a few comments may be apt. The smooth running was temporarily interrupted in May by a gas leak which was traced to a pipe under the floor of one of the surgeries. This resulted in a major upheaval with the renewal of gas pipes throughout the dental department. The staff cheerfully accepted the situation and did their best under difficult circumstances and patients showed understanding when it was necessary to postpone their appointments.

"It is ironical that at the Central Clinic where there are two surgeries in constant use that there is no Clinic Clerk to act as receptionist as was intended in the design of the buildings; whereas Monkwick and Shrub End Clinics both have clerks although there is only one surgery at each. This state of affairs seriously interrupts the chair-side work of the Surgery Assistants and it is hoped that the appointment of a receptionist will be authorised in the near future.

"The importance of dental inspections is emphasised by the fact that of the children examined just over half were found to require treatment.

"The demand for orthodontic treatment continued to increase and it is encouraging to note that only one case was discontinued in the year."

Medical Inspection and Revised Scheme for Medical Inspection

The year 1968 was the first full year of selective medical inspection in all the schools of the Borough. The *total* number of inspections under the headings of "periodic medical inspections", "special examinations", "re-examinations" and "seen by medical officer" remains much the same, but the distribution between the headings is changed because of the selective system. It focuses attention on the "vulnerable" children and I am particularly interested in the way in which an appreciable number of children are being "picked up" by the selective system at the age of 8 whereas under the old routine system they would probably not have come to our notice until they were two or three years older.

The tables of actual defects found need no special comment; any differences between the figures for 1968 and those for 1967 are within what one regards as normal variation from year to year.

Number of Swimming Pools in the Schools

One new swimming pool was opened during the year, at Home Farm Primary School. The total number of swimming pools in the Borough is now five.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE, 1968

Number of sessions worked by Dental Officers 1,263

Inspections:

Number of pupils inspected 8,985

Number of pupils found to require treatment 4,739

Treatment:

Number of individual pupils treated 2,904

Number of attendances 8,692

FILLINGS:

Permanent teeth 4,162

Temporary teeth 2,805

EXTRACTIONS:

Permanent teeth 408

Temporary teeth 1,436

Number of Anaesthetics 606

Orthodontics:

Number of cases treated during the year 115

Number of cases completed during the year 48

Number of appliances fitted 102

Number of dentures fitted 7

BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER

DELEGATED SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES, 1968

Number of Maintained Schools

(a) Primary	31
(b) Secondary	10
(c) Special	1

Number of Pupils on Register

(a) Primary	7,897
(b) Secondary	6,229
(c) Special	123

Periodic Medical Inspections

2,551

General Condition of Pupils

(a) Satisfactory	2,530
(b) Unsatisfactory	21

Special Examinations

900

Re-examinations

857

Selective Examinations	..	..	..	..	Age	Age
					8	11
Questionnaires sent .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,004	1,000
Questionnaires returned .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	957	967
No action .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	808	851
Seen by Medical Officer .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	149	116

Number of Individual Pupils found by Periodic Examination to require treatment (or receiving treatment at time of examination)

(a) For defective vision (excluding squint)	206
(b) For skin diseases	67
(c) Other conditions	348

Defects found by Periodic Medical Examination

Squint	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Other Eye Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Hearing	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Other Ear Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Otitis Media	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Nose and Throat	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Speech	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Lymphatic Glands	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Heart and Circulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Hernia	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other Development Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Posture	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Other Orthopaedic Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Epilepsy	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Psychological Development	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Psychological Stability	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Other Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	48

TREATMENT OF PUPILS

Minor Ailment Clinics

(a) Number of new cases treated	..	..	..	444
(b) Total attendances:				
(i) Seen by Medical Officers	..	..	..	1,498
(ii) Otherwise	..	..	..	2,354

Miscellaneous Examinations

Employment of School Children:

Number of children examined for employment	275
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Cleanliness Surveys

(a) Total number of examinations	18,881
(b) Number of cases of infestation	105

Home visits by School Nurses

Number of visits	764
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PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

B.C.G. Vaccinations (Tuberculosis)

(a) Number of children offered vaccination ..	1,415
(b) Number of children accepting vaccination ..	1,155
(c) Number of children with Positive reaction ..	26
(d) Number of children with Negative reaction ..	1,129
(e) Number of children receiving B.C.G. ..	1,076

SPEECH THERAPY

Pupils under treatment at end of year

Infant Schools	Junior Schools	Secondary Schools	Special Schools	Under 5 years	Total
24	12	5	23	17	81

AUDIOLOGY

Number of clinics held during year ..	..	..	27
Total number of attendances during year ..	..	..	215

New Referrals:

	Under 5	5-6 years	7-11 years	12 and over	Total
Colchester ..	7	16	14	5	42
North-East ..	15	21	28	6	70
Total	22	37	42	11	112

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